

Kathy Short, 2002

Research Proposal **for Action Research/Teacher Research**

1. INTRODUCTION

What am I proposing to study? What is the basis of my interest in this topic or focus? What am I trying to learn about and understand? What are my overall goals?

What are the factors in my own history and experiences that have led me to become interested in this area of inquiry?

What are my specific research questions for this study?

2. BACKGROUND FOR THE STUDY/REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE: WHY

What is the background of this topic or focus and why is that background important to understand? What is the context of previous work that has been done on this topic? To what else does the topic relate? How can I situate my study within related professional literature?

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH CONTEXT: WHERE AND WHO

Where am I going to conduct this study? Where will I gather the data?

What is the specific context in which the study will be conducted (e.g. school population, the classroom environment, curriculum, etc.)? In what kind of place am I gathering data?

Who will be the participants in this research? How will I select the participants?
What is my relationship to the people involved?

Do I need to gain permission ("informed consent") from parents, guardians, or other "gatekeepers"? If so, how will I gain this consent? How will I assure participants that they will be protected from harm and that they will not be exposed to risks?

4. METHODS FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS: HOW WILL I COLLECT, ORGANIZE, AND ANALYZE THE DATA?

What is my general approach to research design (experimental, case study, qualitative, etc.)?
How and why did I choose this approach?

What important kinds of data will I explore? What specific methods of data collection will I use (e.g. field notes, teaching journal, interviewing, taping, collecting artifacts, etc.)?

What are my tentative plans for data analysis? How do I plan to organize and analyze data as I collect it? How will I plan for more intensive analysis once the process of data collection has

been completed?

How much time do I expect to spend doing which activities? What is my week-by-week research time line?

5. IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY: WHO WILL CARE?

Whose interests are served by this research? Who benefits?

What is the study's potential significance for my classroom or local context? for education or society as a whole? Who might care about this study? Where and with whom might I share the findings? Where might a report of this research be published?

6. REFERENCES

Which style manual (for references and citations within the text of the research report) will I use in reporting my study in writing?